

Chapter 26

DIGRESSION TO YASIN

WE had intended to start on Friday, March 20th, but after a couple of hellish days packing, clearing up correspondence, developing, printing, washing photographs, and tidying the house so as to leave all in order for our absence, we found that we must postpone till Saturday. This apparently unimportant alteration in our plans caused evident jubilation amongst the servants. "Why are you all so pleased?" I asked Zaidu. "Well, you see, Mother, it is said not to be lucky to start downstream on a Friday; upstream is all right, but not down." I said that if they felt like that they should have told us and we should have gladly changed the day to oblige them. "What should you have done if we had insisted on starting on a Friday?" "Oh, we'd have managed all right. We'd have said good-bye and left our own houses and camped on Thursday night in your compound, and so we should not have had to *begin* the journey on Friday." Wonderful people! The few superstitions they half-heartedly indulge (which we suspect they have caught in this mild form from their superstition-ridden neighbours, the Shins) they are always prepared and able to outwit.

We got off at nine on March 21st in lovely weather, at once warm and cool. Quite a large crowd assembled to say good-bye and see us start, our friends shouting: "Come back soon. We shall miss you." As we rode through Murtazabad we saw the first occasional fruit blossoms and felt sad to be leaving Hunza behind in apricot time. Slight steam was rising from the sulphur springs by the river as we passed. Later, in Nagir, we saw the first wasps of the year and the first butter-

1. *tap*, pl. -*ox*, EOL -*ux*, y leaflet, petal; 777 ●
leaf, page (of book). — *iski tap šraq*
3-leaved grass, i.e. trefoil, clover.

Specimens with four or more leaflets
are searched for, and those with
4 and 6 leaflets are considered
"lucky".

(Perhaps the same word is to be
seen in Sh. *tapi bat*, very thin stone,
shale).

2. *thap -icag* y night. — *thap uyom* all 000
night. *sa thap* day and night. 116.15.
tape, *tape.i* at night. 4.16, 94.1.
thapmo at night. *ite th'ape.i* (or,
thaper) that night. *tray thap*, *thape*
tray midnight. *ku'to nim thap* last
night. *er tap manimi* it became
night for him, i.e. night overtook
him. 234.2. *tap bilom* it was night.
198.1. Cp. 358.7, 384.9. Prov 26.

(Cp. Chilāsi Sh. *tap*, dark).

taptap with a tapping sound. — *heralt*
taptap mai.abila the rain is tapping
down. *zu yarr ne taptap šel'ici.en*
the apricots are falling tap, tap, tap.

(Cp. Sh. *taptap*, dropping, spitting
of rain).

1. *taq *-atas*.

V.t. to break into pieces, smash,
cut up. — *sandugate dan iserk taq*
ne gatun di.usin smash down a stone
on the box and breaking it up take
out the clothes. 24.18. *gutis taq ne*
cutting up the corpse into bits. 226.3.
cap taq (i.e. *taq*) *netan* cutting up
the meat. 338.14, 340.12, 384.23.

V.i. *taq manaw*, *taq *-manas* to
break in pieces, be smashed, smashed.
— *ikorene taq imanimi. i'se taq ima-*
nom čama . . . (the brooch) broke
in pieces of itself. The brooch that
was broken in pieces. 164.18. *taq*